

showing that the inventions are independent or distinct as claimed, and a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. In the present case, all claims subject to the restriction requirement were already allowed prior to making that requirement.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that *no* burden —let alone a serious burden— remained on the Examiner, as all claims were examined and allowed before setting the restriction requirement. Indeed, making that restriction requirement after all claims were previously allowed has already placed some burden on the Examiner, and will also burden the Office and the applicants' assignee through the need to file and prosecute separate divisional applications for the non-elected (and previously allowed) inventions.

Accordingly, the applicants submit that withdrawing the previous restriction requirement and passing the present application to issue, consistent with the previous allowance of all remaining claims, will produce the least burden on the Office and the applicants.

Provisional Request for Interview

The undersigned acknowledges telephone discussions with the Examiner on October 3 and October 13, 2005. In the last such discussion, the Examiner indicated that the previous allowance of claims will carry forward to the present claims in any invention group the applicants elect in response to the restriction requirement. The Examiner also stated that the continuing allowance of claims was subject to any further search he might conduct, which the undersigned understands to be standard Office practice.


The applicants and their assignee are interested in obtaining a patent on this application, without further delay. If the Examiner should decide to withdraw the

previous allowance of claims in Group III following the present response, the undersigned urges the Examiner to call him at the number given below for scheduling a personal interview to advance the prosecution of this application.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office action identified above. The applicants respectfully request further examination consistent with the foregoing election and traverse, and submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD


Roger T. Frost

Reg. No. 22,176

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Merchant & Gould, LLC
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
Telephone: 404.954.5100

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